

## POS

**POSSESSIVE.** *adj.* [*possessivus*, Lat.] Having possession.  
**POSSESSORY.** *adj.* [*possessivus*, Fr. from *posséder*.] Having possession.  
 This he detains from the ivy much against his will; for he should be the true *possessory* lord thereof. *Howel*.  
**POSSESSOR.** *n. f.* [*possessor*, Lat. *possessor*, Fr.] Owner; master; proprietor.

Thou profoundest hell  
 Receive thy new *possessor*. *Milton*.  
 A considerable difference lies between the honour of men for natural and acquired excellencies and divine graces, that those having more of human nature in them, the honour doth more directly redound to the *possessor* of them. *Sittingfleet*.  
 'Twas the interest of those, who thirsted after the possessions of the clergy, to represent the *possessors* in as vile colours as they could. *Atterbury's Sermons*.  
**POSSET.** *n. f.* [*posca*, Lat.] Milk curdled with wine or any acid.

We'll have a *posset* at the latter end of a seacoal fire. *Shak.*  
 In came the bridesmaids with the *posset*,  
 The bridegroom eat in spite. *Suckling*.  
 I allowed him medicated broths, *posset* ale and pearl julep. *Wise man's Surgery*.

A sparing diet did her health assure;  
 Or sick, a pepper *posset* was her cure. *Dryden*.  
 The cure of the stone consists in vomiting with *posset* drink, in which althea roots are boiled. *Player on the Humours*.  
 Increase the milk when it is diminished by the too great use of flesh meats, by gruels and *posset* drink. *Arbutnot*.

**POSSER.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To turn; to curdle: as milk with acids. Not used.

Swift as quicksilver it courses through  
 The natural gates and alleys of the body;  
 And, with a sudden vigour, it doth *posset*  
 And curd, like eager droppings into milk,  
 The thin and wholesome blood. *Shaksp. Hamlet*.  
**POSSIBILITY.** *n. f.* [*possibilitas*, Fr.] The power of being in any manner; the state of being possible.

There is no let, but that as often as those books are read, and need to require, the stile of their differences may expressly be mentioned to bar even all *possibility* of error. *Hecker*.

Brother, speak with *possibilities*,  
 And do not break into these woeful extremes. *Shaksp.*  
 Consider him antecedently to his creation, while he yet lay in the barren womb of nothing, and only in the number of *possibilities*; and consequently could have nothing to recommend him to Christ's affection. *South's Sermons*.

A bare *possibility*, that a thing may be or not be, is no just cause of doubting whether a thing be or not. *Tillotson*.  
 According to the multifariousness of this imitability, so are the *possibilities* of being. *Norris*.

Example not only teaches us our duty, but convinces us of the *possibility* of our imitation. *Rogers's Sermons*.

**POSSIBLE.** *adj.* [*possibilis*, Fr. *possibilis*, Lat.] Having the power to be or to be done; not contrary to the nature of things.

Admit all these impossibilities and great absurdities to be *possible* and convenient. *Whiggle*.  
 With men this is impossible, but with God all things are *possible*. *Mat. xix. 26*.

All things are *possible* to him that believeth. *Mar. ix. 23*.  
 Firm we submit, but *possible* to swerve. *Milton*.  
 It will scarce seem *possible*, that God should engrave principles in men's minds in words of uncertain signification. *Locke*.

Set a pleasure tempting, and the hand of the Almighty visibly prepared to take vengeance, and tell whether it be *possible* for people wantonly to offend against the law. *Locke*.

**POSSIBLY.** *adv.* [from *possible*.]

1. By any power really existing.  
 Within the compass of which laws, we do not only comprehend whatsoever may be easily known to belong to the duty of all men, but even whatsoever may *possibly* be known to be of that quality. *Hooker, b. i. f. 8*.

Can we *possibly* his love desert? *Milton*.

2. Perhaps; without absurdity.

*Possibly* he might be found in the hands of the earl of Essex, but he would be dead first. *Clarendon, b. viii*.  
 Arbitrary power tends to make a man a bad sovereign, who might *possibly* have been a good one, had he been invested with an authority circumscrib'd by laws. *Addison*.

**POST.** *n. f.* [*poste*, Fr. *equus postis curior*.]

1. A hasty messenger; a courier who comes and goes at stated times; commonly a letter carrier.

In certain places there be always fresh *posts*, to carry that farther which is brought unto them by the other. *Abbot*.  
 Thee I'll rake up, the *post* unattended  
 Of mirth's rous lechers. *Shaksp. King Lear*.

I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,  
 Receiving them by such a worthless *post*. *Shaksp.*

A cripple in the way out-travels a footman, or a *post* out of the way. *Ben. Jonson's Discover*.

I send you the fair copy of the poem on dulness, which I should not care to hazard by the common *post*. *Pope*.

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2. Quick course or manner of travelling. This is the sense in which it is taken; but the expression seems elliptical to *ride post*, is to ride as a post, or to ride in the manner of a post; *courir en poste*; whence *Shakespeare*, to ride in post.  
 I brought my master news of Juliet's death,  
 And then in *post* he came from Mantua  
 To this same monument. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet*.  
 Sent from Media *post* to Egypt. *Milton*.  
 He who rides *post* through an unknown country, cannot distinguish the situation of places. *Dryden*.

3. [*Poste*, Fr. from *positus*, Lat.] Situation; seat.  
 The waters rise every where upon the surface of the earth, which new *post*, when they had once seized on, they would never quit. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth*.

4. Military station.  
 See before the gate what flanking ghost  
 Commands the guard, what sentries keep the *post*. *Dryden*.

As I watch'd the gates,  
 Lodg'd on my *post*, a herald is arriv'd  
 From Cæsar's camp. *Addison's Cato*.  
 Whatever spirit careles of his charge  
 His *post* neglects, or leaves the fair at large,  
 Shall feel sharp vengeance. *Pope*.

Each of the Grecian captains he represents conquering a single Trojan, while Diomed encounters two at once; and when they are engaged, each in his distinct *post*, he only is drawn fighting in every quarter. *Pope*.

5. Place; employment; office.  
 Every man has his *post* assigned to him, and in that station he is well, if he can but think himself so. *L'Estrange*.

Falle men are not to be taken into confidence, nor fearful men into a *post* that requires resolution. *L'Estrange*.

Without letters a man can never be qualified for any considerable *post* in the camp; for courage and corporal force, unless joined with conduct, the usual effects of contemplation, is no more fit to command than a tempest. *Collier*.

While you, my lord, the rural shades admire,  
 And from Britannia's public *posts* retire,  
 Me into foreign realms my fate conveys. *Addison*.

Certain laws, by just 'ers thought unjust,  
 Deny'd all *posts* of profit or of trust. *Pope*.

Many thousands there are, who determine the justice or madness of national administrations, whom neither God nor men ever qualified for such a *post* of judgment. *Watts*.

6. [*Postis*, Lat.] A piece of timber let erect.  
 The blood they shall strike on the two side *posts* and upper *post* of the house. *Ex. xii. 7*.

Fir-trees, cyresses and cedars being, by a kind of natural rigour, inflexible downwards, are thereby fittest for *posts* or pillars. *Wotton's Architecture*.

*Post* is equivocal; it is a piece of timber, or a twist messenger. *Watts's Logic*.

**POSTER.** *v. n.* [*poster*, Fr. from the noun.] To travel with speed.

I *posted* day and night to meet you. *Shaksp.*  
 Will you presently take horse with him,  
 And with all speed *post* with him towards the North? *Shak.*  
*Post* speedily to my lord, your husband,  
 Shew him this letter. *Shaksp. King Lear*.

Most wicked speed, to *post*  
 With such dexterity to incestuous sheets. *Shaksp.*  
 Then this, then that man's aid, they crave, implore;  
*Post* here for help, seek their followers. *Daniel*.

The Turkish messenger presently took horse, which was there in readiness for him, and *posted* towards Constantinople with as much speed as he could. *Knusler*.

Themistocles made Xerxes *post* apace out of Greece, by giving out that the Grecians had a purpose to break his bridge of ships athwart the Hellespont. *Bacon's Essays*.

Wer't thou of the golden-winged host,  
 Who having clad thyself in human weed,  
 To earth from thy prefixed seat did'st *post*. *Milton*.

Thousands at his bidding speed,  
 And *post* o'er land and ocean without rest. *Milton*.

With songs and dance we celebrate the day;  
 At other times we reign by night alone,  
 And *posting* through the skies pursue the moon. *Dryden*.

No wonder that pastors are fallen into disesteem; I see the reader already uneasy at this part of Virgil, counting the pages, and *posting* to the Æneis. *Walpole*.

This only object of my real care,  
 In some few *posting* fatal hours is hurt'd  
 From wealth, from power, from love and from the world. *Prior*.

**TO POST.** *v. a.*

1. To fix opprobriously on posts.  
 Many gentlemen, for their integrity in their votes, were, by *posting* their names, exposed to the popular calumny and fury. *King Charles*.

On pain of being *posted* to your sorrow,  
 Fail not, at four, to meet me. *2. To place;*

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2. [*Posier*, Fr.] To place; to station; to fix.  
 The conscious priest, who was suborn'd before,  
 Stood ready *posted* at the postern door. *Dryden*.

He that proceeds upon other principles in his enquiry into any sciences, puts himself on that side, and *posts* himself in a party, which he will not quit till he be beaten out. *Locke*.

When a man is *posted* in the station of a minister, he is sure, beside the natural fatigue of it, to incur the envy of some, and the displeasure of others. *Addison's Freeholder*.

3. To register methodically; to transcribe from one book into another. A term common among merchants.  
 You have not *posted* your books these ten years; how should a man of business keep his affairs even at this rate? *Arbutnot*.

4. To delay. Obsolete.  
 I have not stop mine ears to their demands,  
 Nor *posted* off their suits with slow delays;  
 Then why should they love Edward more than me. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*

**POSTAGE.** *n. f.* [from *post*.] Money paid for conveyance of a letter.

Fifty pounds for the *postage* of a letter! to send by the church, is the dearest road in Christendom. *Dryden*.

**POSTBOY.** *n. f.* [*post* and *boy*.] Courier; boy that rides post.  
 This genius came thither in the shape of a *postboy*, and cried out, that Mons was relieved. *Tatler*.

**TO POSTDATE.** *v. a.* [*post*, after, Lat. and *date*.] To date later than the real time.

**POSTDILUVIAN.** *adj.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] Posterior to the flood.

Take a view of the *postdiluvian* state of this our globe, how it hath stood for this last four thousand years. *Woodw.*

**POSTDILUVIAN.** *n. f.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] One that lived since the flood.

The antediluvians lived a thousand years; and as for the age of the *postdiluvians* for some centuries, the annals of Phœnicia, Egypt and China agree with the tenor of the sacred story. *Grew's Cosmol. b. iv.*

**POSTER.** *n. f.* [from *post*.] A courier; one that travels hastily.  
 Weid sisters hand in hand,  
*Posters* of the sex and land, *Shaksp. Macbeth*.

**POSTERIOR.** *adj.* [*posterior*, Lat. *posterior*, Fr.] Happening after; placed after; following.

1. Where the anterior body gives way, as fast as the *posterior* cometh on, it maketh no noise, but the motion never so great. *Bacon*.

No care was taken to have this matter remedied by the explanatory articles, *posterior* to the report. *Addison*.

Herod was *posterior* to Homer. *Brome*.  
 This orderly disposition of things includes the ideas of prior, *posterior* and simultaneous. *Watts's Logic*.

2. Backward.  
 And now had fame's *posterior* trumpet blown,  
 And all the nations summoned. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

**POSTERIOR.** *n. f.* [*posterior*, Lat.] The hinder parts.  
 To raise one hundred, and ten thousand pounds, is as vain as that of Rabelais, to squeeze out wind from the *posteriors* of a dead ass. *Swift*.

**POSTERIORITY.** *n. f.* [*posterioritas*, Fr. from *posterior*.] The state of being after; opposite to priority.

Although the condition of sex and *posteriority* of creation might extenuate the error of a woman, yet it was unexcusable in the man. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.

There must be a *posteriority* in time of every compounded body, to these more simple bodies out of which it is constituted. *Hale's Origin of Mankind*.

**POSTERITY.** *n. f.* [*posteritas*, Fr. *posteritas*, Lat.] Succeeding generations; descendants; opposed to ancestors.

It was said,  
 It should not stand in thy *posterity*;  
 But that myself should be the father *Shaksp. Macbeth*.

Since arms avail not now that Henry's dead!  
*Posterity* await for wretched years. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*

*Posterity* inform'd by thee might know. *Milton*.  
 Their names shall be transmitted to *posterity*, and spoken of through all future ages. *Smalridge's Sermons*.

To th' unhappy, that unjustly bleed,  
 Heav'n gives *posterity* t' avenge the deed. *Pope*.

**POSTERN.** *n. f.* [*posterne*, Fr. *posterne*, Dutch; *janua postica*, Lat.] A small gate; a little door.

'Tis dawning light  
 Discover'd had the world to heaven wide,  
 He by a privy *postern* took his flight,  
 That of no envious eyes he mote be spy'd. *Fa. Queen*.

Go on, good Eglamour,  
 Out at the *postern* by the abbey wall. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*

By broken byways did I inward pass,  
 And in that window made a *postern* wide. *Fairfax*.

These issued into the safe court through a privy *postern*, and sharply vitiated the assailants with halberds. *Hayward*.

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Great Britain hath had by his majesty a strong addition; the *postern*, by which we were so often entered and surpris'd, is now made up. *Raleigh's Essays*.

The conscious priest, who was suborn'd before,  
 Stood ready *posted* at the postern door. *Dryden*.

If the nerves, which are the conduits to convey them from without to the audience in the brain, be so disordered, as not to perform their functions, they have no *postern* to be admitted by, no other ways to bring themselves into view. *Locke*.

A private *postern* opens to my gardens  
 Through which the beautiful captive might remove. *Rowe*.

**POSTEXISTENCE.** *n. f.* [*post* and *existence*.] Future existence.  
 As Simonides has expost the vicious part of women from the doctrine of pre-existence, some of the ancient philosophers have satyrized the vicious part of the human species from a notion of the foul's *postexistence*. *Addison's Spect.*

**POSTHACKNEY.** *n. f.* [*post* and *hackney*.] Hired posthorses.  
 Epping the French ambassador with the king's coach attending him, made them balk the beaten road and teach *posthackneys* to leap hedges. *Watson*.

**POSTHASTE.** *n. f.* [*post* and *haste*.] Haste like that of a courier.

This is  
 The source of this our watch, and the chief head  
 Of this *posthaste* and romage in the land. *Shaksp.*

Requires your haste, *posthaste* appearance,  
 Ev'n on the instant. *Shaksp. Othello*.

This man tells us, that the world waxes old, though not in *posthaste*. *Hakewill on Providence*.

**POSTHORSE.** *n. f.* [*post* and *horse*.] A horse stationed for the use of couriers.

He lay under a tree, while his servants were getting fresh *posthorses* for him. *Sidney, b. ii.*

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die,  
 Till George be pack'd with *posthorses* up to heav'n. *Shaksp.*

Xaycus was forthwith beset on every side and taken prisoner, and by *posthorses* conveyed with all speed to Constantinople. *Knusler's History of the Turks*.

**POSTHOUSE.** *n. f.* [*post* and *house*.] Post office; house where letters are taken and dispatched.

An officer at the *posthouse* in London places every letter he takes in, in the box belonging to the proper road. *Watts*.

**POSTHUMOUS.** *adj.* [*posthumus*, Lat. *posthume*, Fr.] Done, had, or published after one's death.

In our present miserable and divided condition, how just soever a man's pretensions may be to a great or blameless reputation, he must, with regard to his *posthumous* character, content himself with such a consideration as induced the famous Sir Francis Bacon, after having bequeathed his soul to God, and his body to the earth, to leave his fame to foreign nations. *Addison's Freeholder, N° 35*.

**POSTICK.** *adj.* [*posticus*, Lat.] Backward.

The *postick* and backward position of the feminine parts in quadrupeds can hardly admit the substitution of masculine generation. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.

**POSTILL.** *n. f.* [*postille*, Fr. *postilla*, Lat.] Gloss; marginal notes.

**TO POSTILL.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To gloss; to illustrate with marginal notes.

I have seen a book of account of Emperors, that had the king's hand almost to every leaf by way of signing, and was in some places *postilled* in the margin with the king's hand. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

**POSTILLER.** *n. f.* [from *postill*.] One who glosses or illustrates with marginal notes.

It hath been observed by many holy writers, commonly delivered by *postillers* and commentators. *Brown*.

Hence you phantastick *postillers* in song,  
 My text defeats your art, ties nature's tongue. *Cleveland*.

**POSTILION.** *n. f.* [*postillon*, French.]

1. One who guides the first pair of a set of six horses in a coach.  
 A young bachelor of arts came to town recommended to a chaplain's place; but none being vacant, modestly accepted of that of a *postillon*. *Tatler, N° 52*.

2. One who guides a post chaise.

**POSTLIMINIOUS.** *adj.* [*postliminium*, Lat.] Done or contrived subsequently.

The reason why men are so short and weak in governing, is, because most things fall out to them accidentally, and come not into any compliance with their pre-conceiv'd ends, but are forced to comply subsequently, and to strike in with things as they fall out, by *postliminious* after-applications of them to their purposes. *South's Sermons*.

**POSTMASTER.** *n. f.* [*post* and *master*.] One who has charge of public conveyance of letters.

I came yonder at Eaton to marry Mrs. Anne Page; and 'tis a *postmaster's* boy. *Shaksp. Merry Wives of Windsor*.  
 Without this letter, as he believes that happy revolution had never been effected, he prays to be made *postmaster* general. *Spectator, N° 629*.

POSTMASTER-